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ELLESMORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1945

ELLESMORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1945.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1945. The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1944, so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

L. WILSON EVANS.

Public Health Staff.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office Held.	Whole or Part Time.
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
E. Wilkinson	M.I.M.Cy.E., M.R.San.I.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	Whole

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1945.

Population 6893

		M.	F.	Total.
Births	Legitimate	43	59	102
	Illegitimate	10	2	12
		—	—	—
		53	61	114

Birth Rate per 1,000 population 16.5

Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 16.1

		M.	F.	Total.
Still Births	Legitimate	1	1	2
	Illegitimate	2	—	2
		—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.58

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales 0.46

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	—	—	—
	2	—	2

Mortality rate of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births . . .	18.
Mortality rate of infants under 1 year of age England and Wales	46.
	M. F. Total.
Deaths	30 28 58
Death Rate per 1,000 population	8.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population England and Wales	11.4

Chief Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Heart Disease	6	11
Cancer	5	5
Diseases of circulatory system other than heart disease	2	4
Intracranial vascular lesions	2	2
Suicide and Violence	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and other digestive diseases	3	1
Pneumonia	3	—

Deaths from Measles	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough . .	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	Nil.
Maternal Deaths	Nil.

The estimated population given is 303 less than last year. There were twenty-two fewer births with a birth rate about the same as that for England and Wales, and a reduction in the number of deaths gives a lower rate than last year and well below that for the country as a whole. There were some very favourable figures among the vital statistics. Particularly satisfactory is the very few number of infant deaths, the reduction in the deaths from Cancer, and no deaths as a result of childbirth.

There were also no deaths from Tuberculosis.

Water Supplies.

Several of the village supplies in the district are unsatisfactory in quantity and quality. Where there is not actual shortage at the source, the distances which the water has to be carried reduces the quantity available to a minimum, and where water for cleansing is dependent on the collection of water from roofs a dry spell of weather often makes the lack of water for this purpose acute.

The plan prepared by the Consulting Water Engineer for supplying the district with a piped supply of water was approved by the Council in April, but by the end of the year no appreciable progress had been made in getting the scheme beyond the paper stage.

The approximate number of houses (1) and population (2) supplied from public water mains is as follows:—

(a) Direct to houses

- (1) 300 — 17%
- (2) 1,200 — 17%

(b) By means of standpipes

- (1) 60 — 3%
- (2) 240 — 3%

Number of houses in the District, 1,713.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Age in years.	Dysentery		Measles.		Pneumonia.		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1-3	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	2	3
3-5	—	—	—	—	7	4	—	—	—	—	1	1
5-10	—	—	—	—	12	11	1	—	—	2	1	6
10-15	—	—	—	—	13	4	—	2	—	—	1	1
15-25	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	1
25-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
45-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	36	29	2	6	—	2	5	2	11	10

The Measles was of a mild form and the Baschurch and Lyneal districts were chiefly affected with a boarding school.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever were below the average and the slightness of the symptoms which have characterised this disease in recent years was evident in all cases. One case was removed to the Isolation Hospital. Whooping Cough was not extensive and the cases were confined to the Myddle district. There were no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough. It is pleasant to be able to record that for the fourth consecutive year there was no case of Diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The position of immunisation is much the same as at the end of last year. The desired improvement in the number of children below school age has not been obtained, and there are more than half of those under 5 years of age not protected. The absence of Diphtheria in the district may have lulled parents into a false sense of security, but it must be emphasised that there is not a sufficient proportion of the very young children immunised to ensure a continued freedom from the disease. Advantage has recently been taken of publicity material supplied by the Central Council of Health Education, and it is hoped that this will result in parents, who, through procrastination, have not taken the simple steps to have their children protected, doing so.

	Under 5 years.	5-15 years.
Number of children immunised during the year ..	99	18
Number of children considered to be immunised on December 31, 1945	263	1,307
Percentage of child population immunised at December 31, 1945	46%	91%

Scabies.

Cases of Scabies have continued to decrease. Only two infections were reported during the year. In one case the whole family had been affected, and in the other one member of the family contracted the disease.

Tuberculosis.

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
New Cases	3	1	—	1
Service Cases	1	—	—	—
Transferred from other districts ..	—	—	—	—
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Totals	4	1	—	1

Deaths	Nil.	Nil.
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Admitted to Sanatorium or Hospital	Nil.
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Number of Cases on Register at end of 1945	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
17	13	15	12	
Totals	30	27		

This year showed a marked improvement in the Tuberculosis figures. The reduction in non-respiratory cases was the first backward step in an advance which had been noted in recent years, and the recording of no deaths completes a satisfactory picture.

The Council made arrangements during the year for the Housing Survey in accordance with the recommendations of the Hobhouse Report, but insufficient houses have been inspected for an opinion to be expressed of the housing conditions in the district, but if a reckoning of the immediate housing requirements were made from the results of the survey in similar rural districts which has been made, 80-100 houses will be required to re-house new families, who, owing to cessation of building during the six years of war, have no proper accommodation, and 150 to 200 houses to replace houses which are likely to need demolition as soon as circumstances permit.

Sewage Disposal.

There is no public sewage works. The pail closet and burying is the chief means of disposal throughout the district. Some houses or groups of houses have tanks, mostly for the treatment of slop water, of varying degrees of efficiency.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Housing.

The number of houses owned by the Council remains at 68 and all are occupied.

Sites have been selected for 20 post-war houses, which are to be of non-parlour type. It is hoped to make an early start with the erection of these.

During the war period very little has been done in respect of maintenance and repairs to dwelling-houses in the district, and conditions at present are such as to make progress in this much needed work well-nigh impossible.

Any overcrowding cases are on the border line only, and there has not come to my notice any acute case.

Water Supplies.

During the year there has been no shortage of water reported, although the major portion of the district has to depend on wells. In the Dudley Heath district, where the supply of water is taken from the Liverpool Corporation's Aqueduct, there are 312 houses with a piped supply of water. In the Great Ness and Little Ness Parishes about 50 houses have a piped supply from Lord Bradford's water undertaking. This leaves 1,552 houses depending on private and publicly-owned wells.

The Council have now a scheme for a fully piped supply throughout the district in preparation.

Milk Production.

There are 447 milk producers in the District, of which 72 are Accredited Licensees and 16 hold T.T. Licences. This is an improvement on previous years in respect of the number of licences. On many farms the buildings have been improved and conditions generally are on the upgrade. There are approximately 40 retailers in the whole district.

Infestations: Rats and Mice.

There are now only a small number of minor infestations, and these are kept in hand.

Salopian Modern Press
Bull Ring Whitechurch